윤미경
Mi-Kyung Yun
5
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

5

윤미경

"BAE SO MAN CHEO SANG"
—BY KIM JEONG-HEE,
CHU-SA (POET)

PLEASE APPEAL TO WOL-HA,
THE ELDER.
LET US, A MARRIED COUPLE,
BE BORN FOR EACH
OTHER AGAIN.
I DIE AND YOU ARE ALIVE,
FAR AWAY FROM ME.
IF ONLY I COULD MAKE YOU
REALIZE HOW THIS
DEEPLY SADDENS ME.

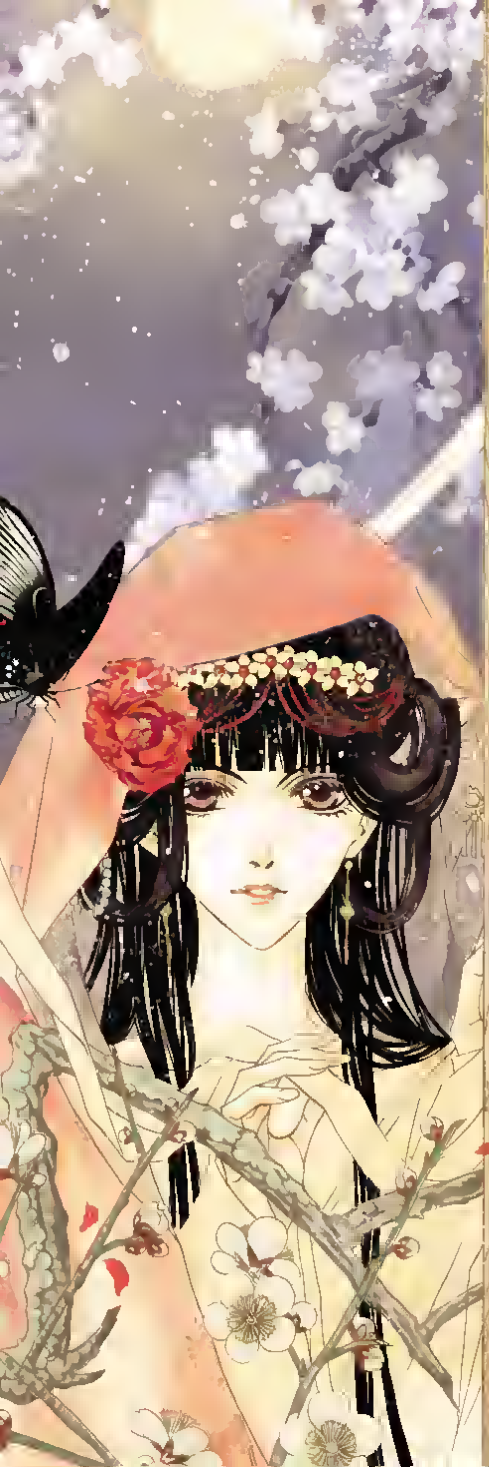
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

story and art by
Mi-Kyung Yun

translation
Julia Kwon Gombos

lettering
Studio Cutie

"SEO JANG AN HAENG"
—BY BUHYUN
WHERE CAN I FIND MY DEAR LOVE?
HE LIES THERE IN WEST JANG-AN.
WHAT WERE THE THINGS THAT
COMFORTED ME?
AN INCENSE STICK AND A SET OF
TWIN JADE RINGS.
WHAT ELSE DID COMFORT ME?
A GEM WINE GLASS,
ALSO THE COLOR OF JADE.
I HEARD THE NEWS ABOUT
MY LOVER TODAY,
BUT I HAVE OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND.
I CAN NEITHER BURN THE INCENSE,
NOR THROW THE RINGS IN THE WATER.
IF I BURN THE INCENSE, IT'LL
BURN DOWN TO NOTHING.
IF I THROW THE RINGS IN THE WATER,
THEY'LL DROWN, FALLING TO
THE FURTHEST DEPTHS
OF THE SEA.



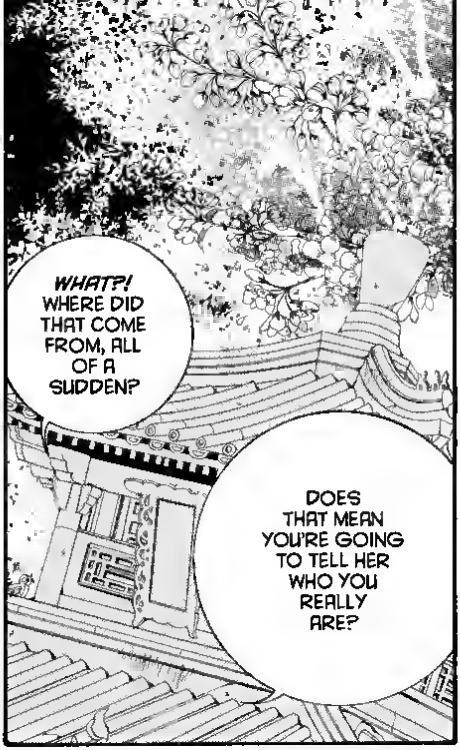
"JAK GYO SEON"
—BY AH CHEONG

TIED WITH THE ROPE OF WOL-HA,
THE ELDER,
WHEN THE FLOWERY FACE AND
THE JADE-LIKE BRANCHES
BECOME ENTANGLED,
UNDER THE FOLDING SCREEN OF
A BAEK-JA PAINTING,
THE SUN SETS BEHIND THE
MOUNTAIN'S PEAK IN THE WEST
AND TURNS ITS SOLITARY
HEAD AWAY.
I'M THINKING...
MY NEW LOVER LOOKS LIKE
MY OLD WIFE.

FWUPP
FWUPP
DON'T HATE US FOR THIS.
YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
SPLISHHH
ACTUALLY, YOU MIGHT BE BETTER OFF CONSIDERING THIS AN *HONOR*. THIS IS, AFTER ALL, A HOLY SACRIFICE FOR YOUR VILLAGE.
FSHAAA
SPLOOSH
SPISHAA

쉬아-
SPISHAAA
TAKK

I'M GOING TO PROPOSE TO HER.


WHAT?! WHERE DID THAT COME FROM, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HER WHO YOU REALLY ARE?

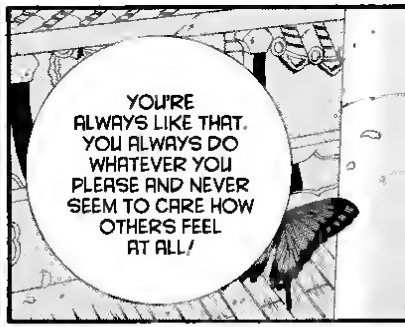
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL JUST ACCEPT THAT YOU'RE HABAEK...? DO YOU THINK IT'LL WORK LIKE THAT?

WELL, SHE'S BEEN MY BRIDE, ANYWAY, SO IT WON'T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE.

WSSHWAAA
HEH HEH! WELL, THEN, I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK.

SORAH, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT.
MUI?

I'VE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU, AND IT'S LATE-- SO LET'S TALK TOMORROW.
FWISH
NO. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU NOW.

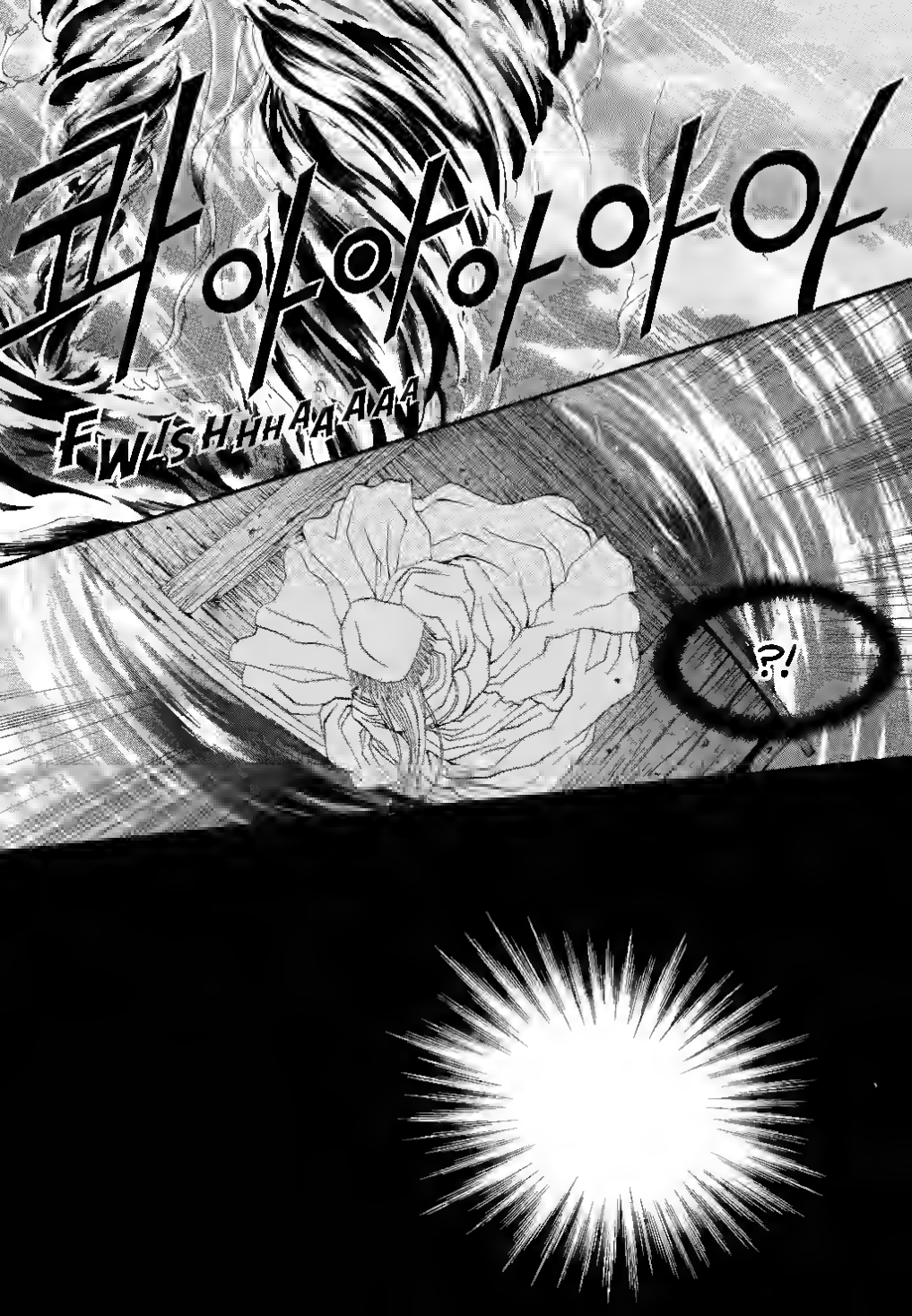

YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT. YOU ALWAYS DO WHATEVER YOU PLEASE AND NEVER SEEM TO CARE HOW OTHERS FEEL AT ALL!

I WON'T BE AT YOUR BECK AND CALL ANYMORE! FROM NOW ON, WHATEVER YOU SAY--
GRAB

I WANT TO MAKE A FORMAL PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE.
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
PLEASE BE MY WIFE, SORAH.
WHAT IS HE SAYING...?

MUI! HERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
SOMEONE'S ENTERED THE CIRCLE OF SUGUK.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL...IT LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN.
NO HUMAN CAN GET INTO SUGUK.
I THINK THAT... MAYBE...

...THE HUMANS SACRIFICED ANOTHER BRIDE.
A BRIDE...?
ANOTHER BRIDE OF HABAEK, BESIDES ME...
WHY?
WHO IS SHE?
솨아아아
FSHHSHHHH


콰아아아아아
FWISHHHAAAAA
?!

파앙
FSHAAAAA
EEYAAH!
첨벙!
SPLOOSH
!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WE SHOULD HURRY AND RESCUE HER!
SHE'LL DROWN!
HELP HER, JU-DONG, PLEASE!
MUI!
I...UMM, HAVE SOME VERY DEEP PROBLEMS WITH WATER... SORRY...
WHY DO I HAVE TO RESCUE HER?
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO RESCUE HER. WHY NOT?!
DID YOU JUST SAY "WHY NOT"...?
GRAB
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS? THAT WOMAN OVER THERE HAS BEEN SACRIFICED TO BE HABAEK'S BRIDE.
?!

SUGUK DOESN'T NEED *TWO* BRIDES HERE.
?!
...I DON'T CARE.
PLEASE RESCUE HER.
I BEG YOU.

FINE. I HOPE YOU DON'T REGRET THIS DECISION LATER.
휙
WHOOSH
?!
움찔
FLINCH
쏴아ㅡ
WSHAAA
휙
TURN
MUI...
WILL I... REGRET THIS?
BUT...I CAN'T LET SOMEONE WHO'S IN THE SAME SITUATION AS ME... JUST DIE.

FWISH
FSHHSHHHH
쇠아아
SPSHOOO

GURGH!
GHURGH!
?!
SPSHWAAA

...
I FEEL STRANGE...
WHY AM I SO WORRIED?
WHAT AM I WORRIED ABOUT NOW?
KASPLOOSH
?!

FWOOO
두근
THU-THUMP
두근
THU-THUMP
두근
THU-THUMP
두근
THU-THUMP
두근
THU-THUMP

덜썩
WHMMP
?!
FLINCH 멈칫

WOOOOSH
NAKBIN...?!
?!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, MUI?
MUI...?
MUI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

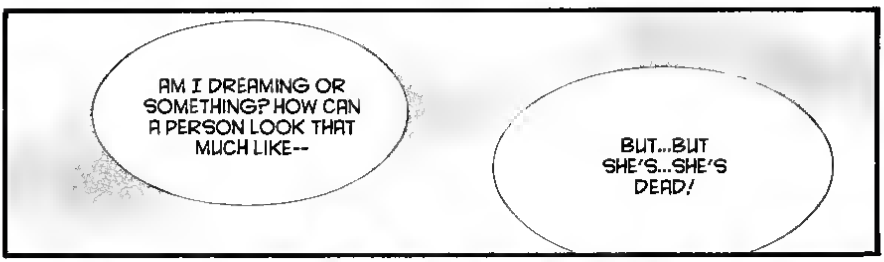
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH...?!
WAIT!
THAT FACE...

トン
FWOOO
...

슥
FWISH
저벅
TOKK
저벅
TOKK
저벅
TOKK
!!

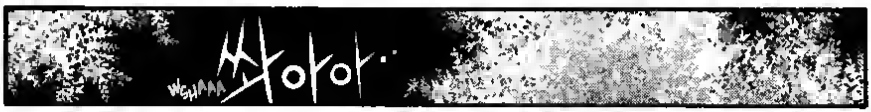
?!
HWIK

WHAT'S GOING ON?


AM I DREAMING OR SOMETHING? HOW CAN A PERSON LOOK THAT MUCH LIKE--
BUT...BUT SHE'S...SHE'S DEAD!

THEN WHO IS SHE?
!!

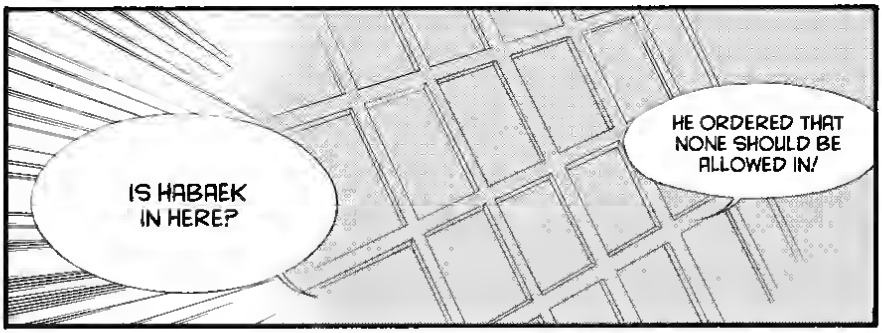
A NEW PLAYER'S APPEARED.
AND THERE'S *ONE MORE* LEFT.

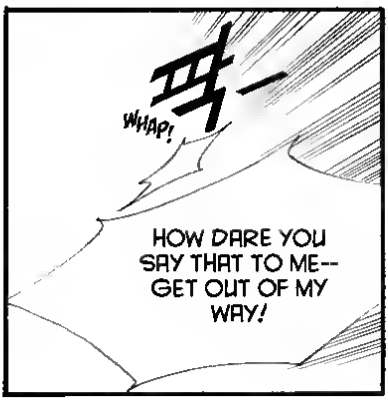


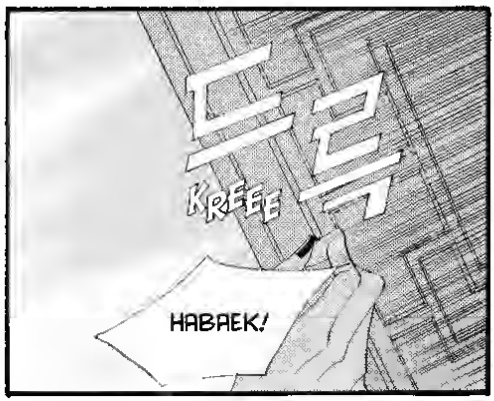
*NIM: KOREAN HONORIFIC, SIMILAR TO "SIR" OR "MA'AM."

WELL... IT SOUNDS LIKE THE HUMANS SACRIFICED ANOTHER BRIDE.
WHO'S MAKING A FUSS ABOUT SUCH A TRIFLING THING?
WHERE'S HABAEK?
WELL... IN FACT...
...
?!

저벅
TAKK
저벅
TAKK
HABAEK...?
HABAEK!


IS HABAEK IN HERE?
HE ORDERED THAT NONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN!


WHAP!
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT TO ME-- GET OUT OF MY WAY!


KREEE
HABAEK!

WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE ABOUT, MURA?!
CAN'T YOU BE QUIETER?

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
THAT WOMAN...

DAMN! WHAT THE HECK IS HAPPENING NOW?
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
A NEW BRIDE... WITH NAKBIN'S FACE...?

휘익
HWIK
AH... MURA-NIM...
저벅 TOKK
저벅 TOKK
저벅 TOKK
철썩
WHAP
!!

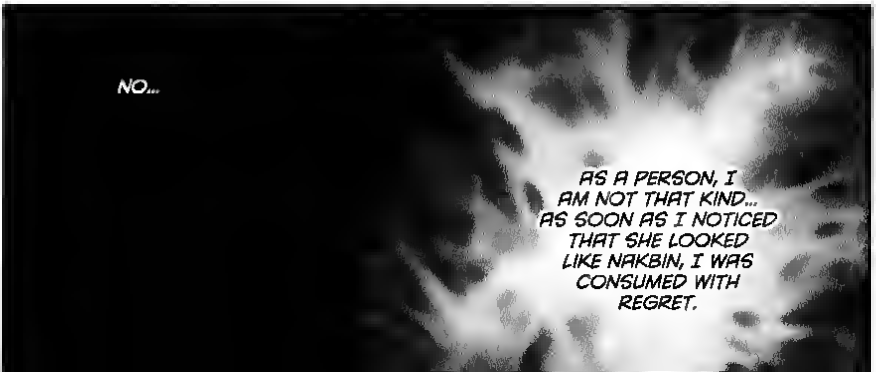
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MURA?!
OH, THIS CAN'T BE GOOD!
?!
I HEARD THAT *YOU* ASKED HIM TO SAVE HER!
WHY DIDN'T YOU LET HER DIE?!
SHE COULD HAVE JUST *GONE ON*, IF YOU HAD JUST LEFT HER ALONE!!

STOP IT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
WHY?
SNATCH
WAKE UP! THIS ISN'T SORAH'S FAULT!
LET GO OF ME!
HUYE!
TAKE SORAH AWAY--NOW!
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
THIS IS NOT LIKE YOU. WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T WORRY...NAKBIN'S DEAD.
THAT'S JUST A HUMAN GIRL OUT THERE WHO HAPPENS TO LOOK A LITTLE LIKE NAKBIN.
...
타

"HAPPENS TO LOOK A LITTLE LIKE NAKBIN"...? HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE THAT SHE WAS EVEN DEAD BACK THEN?
DID YOU SEE HER BODY WITH YOUR OWN EYES?
?!

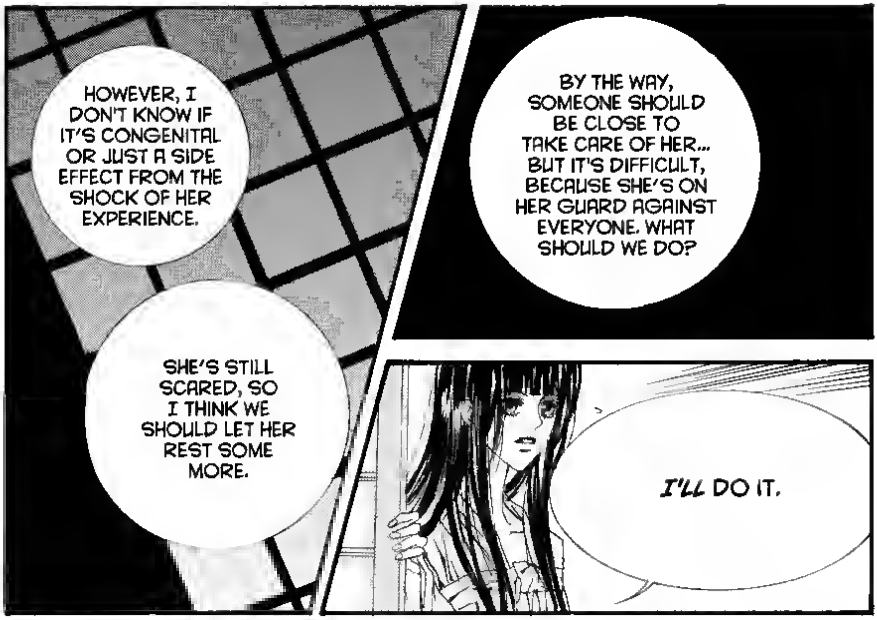
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT MURA SAID.
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.

I'M SURE THAT THE LADY WILL THANK YOU WHEN SHE WAKES UP.


NO...
AS A PERSON, I AM NOT THAT KIND... AS SOON AS I NOTICED THAT SHE LOOKED LIKE NAKBIN, I WAS CONSUMED WITH REGRET.

IN FACT, I WAS OVERCONFIDENT.
OVERCONFIDENT THAT MUI WOULD LONG FOR ME OVER HER...
움찟!
FLINCH
...
WHAT AM I THINKING? WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
THAT PERSON'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS... MAYBE HURT...
MUI, THAT LADY JUST WOKE UP.

SHE'S FINE, JUST A BIT FRIGHTENED.
DID YOU ASK HER HOW SHE CAME HERE?
WELL... ACTUALLY...
...I THINK SHE'S *MUTE.*
!!


HOWEVER, I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S CONGENITAL OR JUST A SIDE EFFECT FROM THE SHOCK OF HER EXPERIENCE.
SHE'S STILL SCARED, SO I THINK WE SHOULD LET HER REST SOME MORE.
BY THE WAY, SOMEONE SHOULD BE CLOSE TO TAKE CARE OF HER... BUT IT'S DIFFICULT, BECAUSE SHE'S ON HER GUARD AGAINST EVERYONE. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I'LL DO IT.

?!
HEH HEH! I THINK SOAH'S THE PERFECT PERSON TO DO THAT. SOAH'S ALSO HUMAN, SO OUR PATIENT WILL PROBABLY LOWER HER GUARD WITH HER.

I CAN DO IT.
I'D LIKE TO HELP.
...
DO AS YOU PLEASE.
KTAM
...

YOU MUST BE VERY SURPRISED TO BE IN A STRANGE PLACE.
MY NAME IS SOAH.
I'M A HUMAN, TOO, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT--
...UP...
WHAT?
SHUT UP.
?!

I JUST WANTED TO--
I DON'T NEED HELP. IT'S DISGUSTING TO SEE YOU PRETENDING TO BE A NICE PERSON, SO WHY DON'T YOU KNOCK IT OFF?
I TOLD YOU TO SHUT UP.
I DON'T NEED HELP, SO GET OUT OF HERE...NOW.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

WAIT. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO CRUEL TO ME WHEN YOU SPEAK.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
FWAPP
KNOCK

WHAT'S WITH THIS NOISE?
WHAT'S GOING ON, LADY SORA?
AH...UMM... SORRY...SHE SAID THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT MY HELP...

WHAT? DID SHE SAY THAT? REALLY?
YES...JUST BEFORE YOU CAME IN.
SHE'S A MUTE.
THAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE.

WHAT? NO WAY! SHE TALKED TO ME A SECOND AGO...
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT PLEASE TRY NOT TO UPSET THE PATIENT.
YOU'RE MISUNDERSTANDING, TAE-EUL-JIN-IN. I REALLY HEARD HER VOICE.
SHE WAS *TALKING* TO ME.
HEY! SAY SOMETHING!
YOU WERE TALKING TO ME A MINUTE AGO!

STOP IT.
I'M NOT KIDDING. SHE WAS TALKING... REALLY...
YOU SAID SOMETHING TO ME. SAY IT AGAIN.
!!
STOP IT... NOW!
GRAB
팍

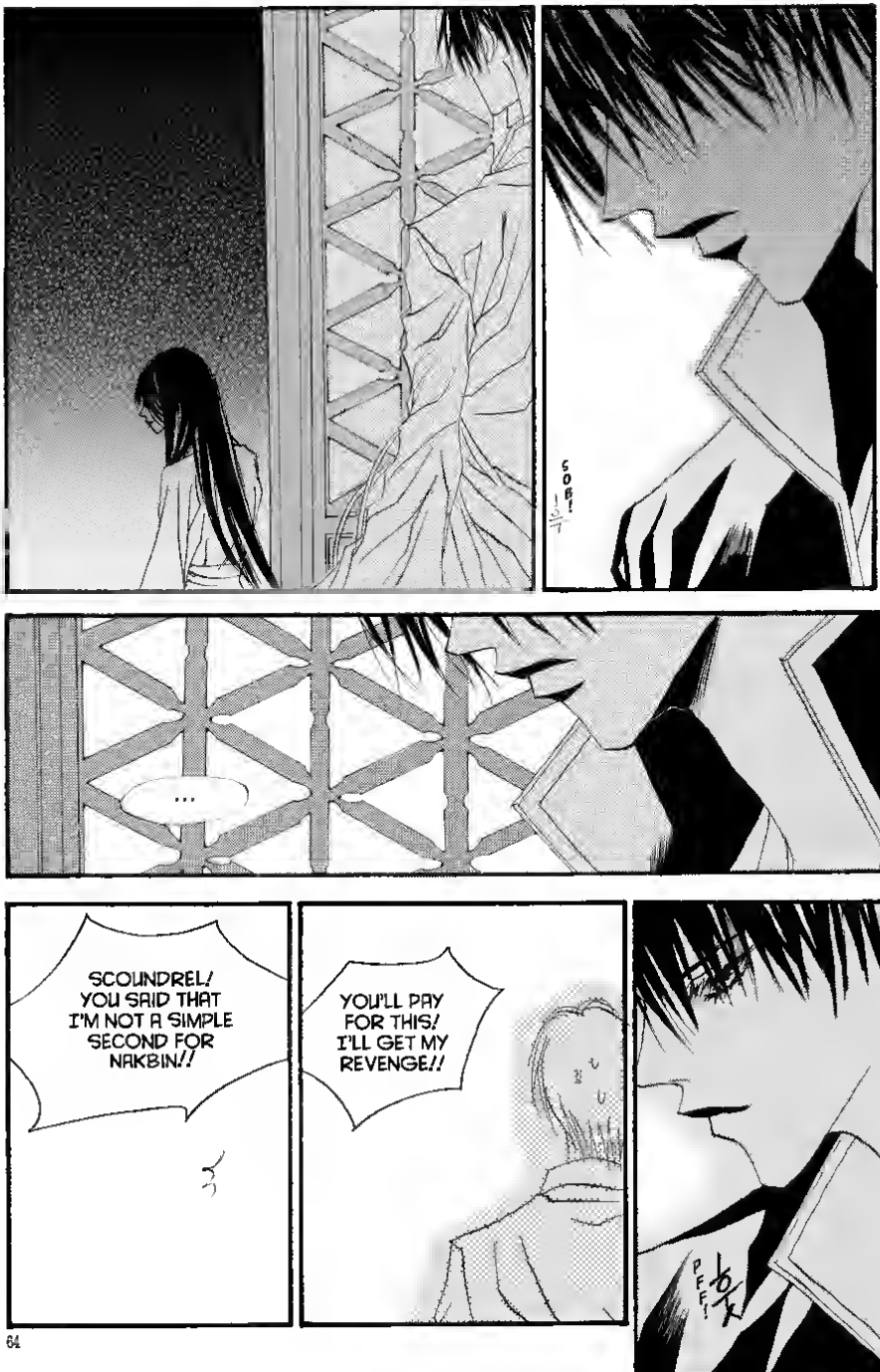
MUI?
휘익
SWSH
?!

WELL, IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO GET ALONG, SO I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER FOR A WHILE. GO *REST*, LADY SOAH.

SHE JUST FELL ASLEEP. SHE SEEMS FINE.
I REALLY HEARD HER VOICE.

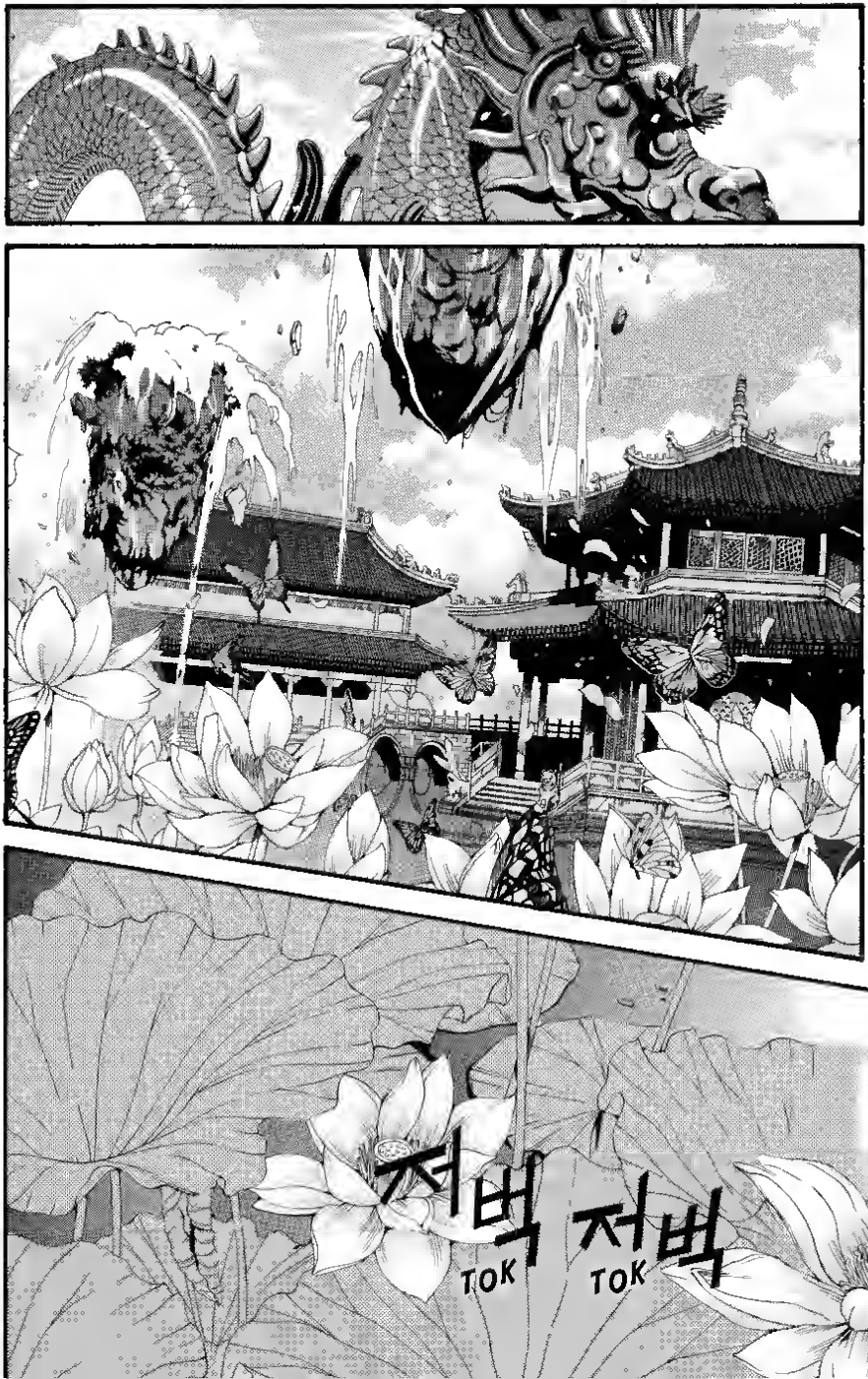
THERE ISN'T THE SLIGHTEST POSSIBILITY THAT SHE CAN TALK?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE SOAH WAS CONFUSED WITH SOMETHING ELSE SHE HEARD. SHE'S PROBABLY WORRIED ABOUT BEING STRIPPED OF HER POSITION.
WELL, LET'S LEAVE HER TO REST.
KTAK

SHWOOSH
WHY DID HE BRING ME BACK HERE, IF HE WASN'T GOING TO TRUST ME?
AND WHY DID HE PROPOSE TO ME?
PLIP
틱

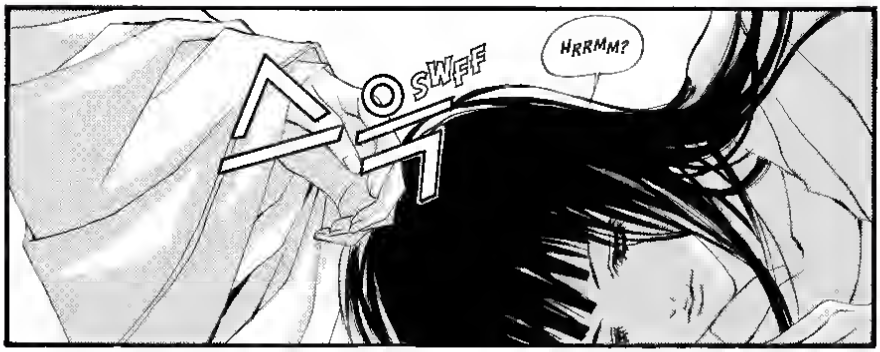

SOB!
...
SCOUNDREL! YOU SAID THAT I'M NOT A SIMPLE SECOND FOR NAKBIN!!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! I'LL GET MY REVENGE!!
P.F.!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO COMFORT HER, ARE YOU?
TAKK
TAKK
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT HER BACK TO SUGUK AFTER SHE LEFT. SHE'S NOT AS STRONG AS SHE LOOKS.
I SHOULD KEEP MY PROMISE TO HER.

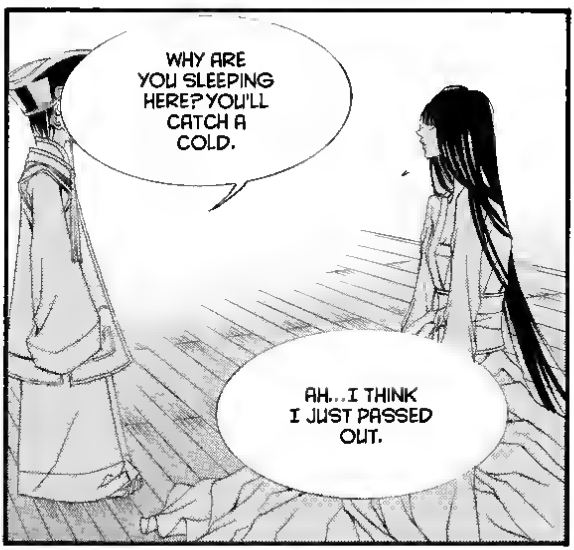
I PROMISED TO HELP HER WHENEVER SHE NEEDED IT...CAN I KEEP THAT PROMISE?!


저벅 저벅
TOK TOK

KREEE


SWFF
HRRMM?

AH... HABAEK...


WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING HERE? YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
AH... I THINK I JUST PASSED OUT.

BY THE WAY, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SLEEPING BEFORE. WHERE DO YOU USUALLY SLEEP?

STOP CHATTING AND GET UP. I WAS WAITING FOR YOU FOR BREAKFAST.
TURN
DID YOU WAIT FOR ME? SORRY...
WELL, HABAEK.
YESTERDAY... MUI SAVED A WOMAN FROM [illegible]...
I KNOW.
HE KNOWS? HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?
ONCE HE FINDS OUT...THAT SHE LOOKS LIKE NAKBIN...

DON'T WORRY.
JUST BE YOURSELF.
쏴—
SHWAAA
HABAEK...

쏴아아아
WOOSHAAA
HABAEK-NIM, THE LADY IS HERE.

ARE YOU THE NEW BRIDE OF HABAEK?
I AM HABAEK, THE WATER GOD.
SWSHAAA
촤아아...
HEH!
큭..

TMP
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN... MUI?

"I want to make a formal proposal of marriage.

Will you marry me?"

WAIT.
!!
WHAT...
DID YOU
JUST...

YOU SAID SOMETHING, DIDN'T YOU? YOU *DID.*
IF YOU COULD TALK, WHY DID YOU LIE TO US YESTERDAY? YOU ACTED LIKE YOU WERE MUTE!
I DIDN'T TALK BECAUSE I DIDN'T *WANT* TO.
I NEVER INDICATED THAT I *COULDN'T,* DID I? STOP MANIPULATING THINGS.
WHAT?!

STOP.
SOAH... I'M SORRY, BUT I'LL HAVE BREAKFAST WITHOUT YOU. I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK WITH HER ABOUT.
DO YOU THINK THAT I WANT TO HAVE BREAKFAST WITH YOU?!
I WAS GOING WITH YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO!

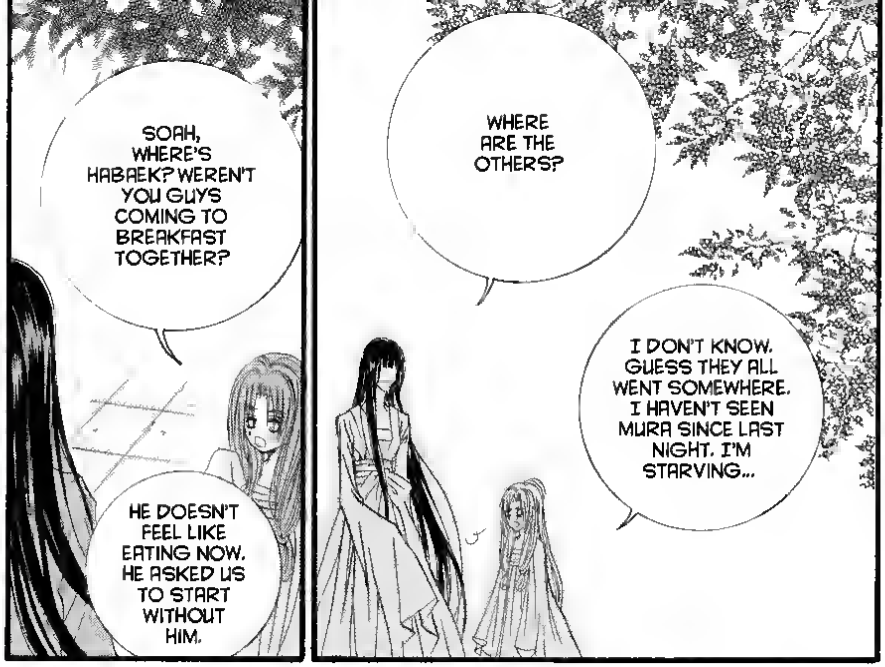
IDIOT!
DID THE IDIOT... JUST CALL ME AN IDIOT?!
AND YOU--- SHOULDN'T YOU THANK ME?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO LET SOAH KNOW ABOUT YOUR SECRET.

WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE *NOT* NAKBIN.
THAT BREAK'S MY HEART, HABAEK.

NO MATTER HOW DIFFERENT I LOOKED, I THOUGHT YOU'D RECOGNIZE ME.
YOU ALREADY HAVE A NEW WIFE... YOU SAY THAT I'M NOT NAKBIN... THIS IS REALLY SAD.

OKAY, THEN...CALL ME *YEO-WA* UNTIL YOU CAN BELIEVE WHO I TRULY AM.

紅の
SWSSHAAA


SOAH, WHERE'S HABAEK? WEREN'T YOU GUYS COMING TO BREAKFAST TOGETHER?
HE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE EATING NOW. HE ASKED US TO START WITHOUT HIM.
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
I DON'T KNOW. GUESS THEY ALL WENT SOMEWHERE. I HAVEN'T SEEN MURA SINCE LAST NIGHT. I'M STARVING...

I HEARD THAT YOU ASKED HIM TO SAVE HER! WHY DIDN'T YOU LET HER DIE?!
SHE COULD HAVE JUST GONE ON, IF YOU HAD JUST LEFT HER ALONE!!

YOHEE, I DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING, EITHER. SORRY...
IF YOU GO, I HAVE TO EAT ALONE. CAN'T YOU JUST TRY TO EAT A *LITTLE BIT* WITH ME?
SORRY. SEE YOU LATER.
FWSH
...

LADY SOAH!
AH... HUYE...
...

ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU KNOW WHAT, HUYE? WOULD YOU PLEASE SHOW ME AROUND SUGUK?
I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO REALLY LOOK AROUND THIS PLACE.
...
WILL YOU WAIT FOR A MINUTE?
SURE.
I WILL.

WOW! HE'S BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
HE'S CALLED *LYNN*. HE'LL BE OUR RIDE TODAY.
HOLD ME TIGHT. WE'LL FLY THERE IN NO TIME AT ALL.

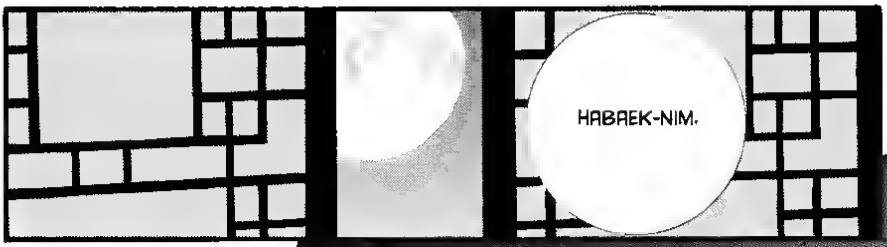
WHERE ARE WE HEADING?
GRASP
!!
YOU'LL LIKE IT. I PROMISE.
FWPP
FWPPAAA

I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY FAVORITE PLACE IN ALL OF SUGUK.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

FWIPPA FWIP

SHWOOO
화아아아
스윽
VWEEN
타닥
TMP
저벅
TAK
저벅
KTAK

HMM...REALLY...?
THANKS FOR THE GOOD WORK, CHEONG-JO.


HABAEK-NIM.

THE GUEST YOU CALLED FOR IS HERE.

THANK YOU FOR COMING, SIR. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

HUH?
YUK-OH, WHO JUST ENTERED HABAEK'S ROOM?
A GUEST THAT HABAEK-NIM REQUESTED.
WHAT? HABAEK "REQUESTED"...? WHO THE HECK IS THAT OLD MAN?
HE IS THE *MATCHMAKER*, THE ELDER NAMED *WOL-HA*.

YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP. NOW YOU LOOK LIKE A WATER GOD.
BY THE WAY, I'M GUESSING THAT YOU NEED MY *HELP*, SINCE YOU'VE ASKED ME TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE.
IN FACT, I NEED YOUR *BOOK*.
THERE'S ONE THING I'D LIKE TO CHECK. COULD I PLEASE BORROW YOUR BOOK FOR A WHILE?
THIS IS THE BOOK OF THE HEAVENS.

THIS BOOK HOLDS EVERY LAST DETAIL ABOUT MARRIAGE IN OUR WORLD.
ONCE I BOND A MAN AND A WOMAN IN THIS BOOK WITH THE *RED STRING,* THEY END UP BEING A COUPLE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY MAY HATE EACH OTHER.
THAT IS THE FATE THAT NO ONE CAN GO AGAINST, EVEN THE GODS.

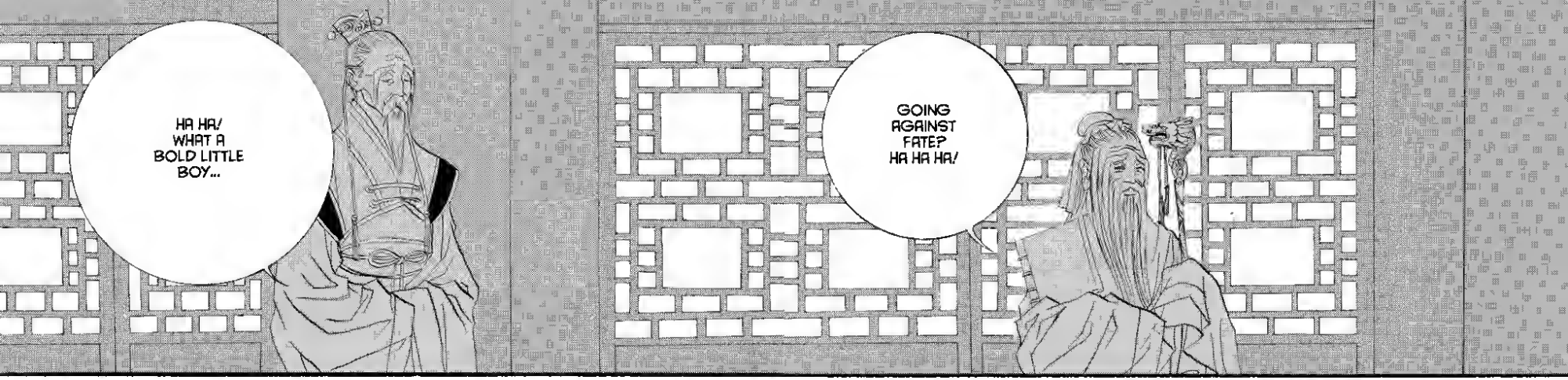
THE PERSON YOU'RE THINKING OF RIGHT NOW IS NOT DESTINED TO BE YOUR MATE.

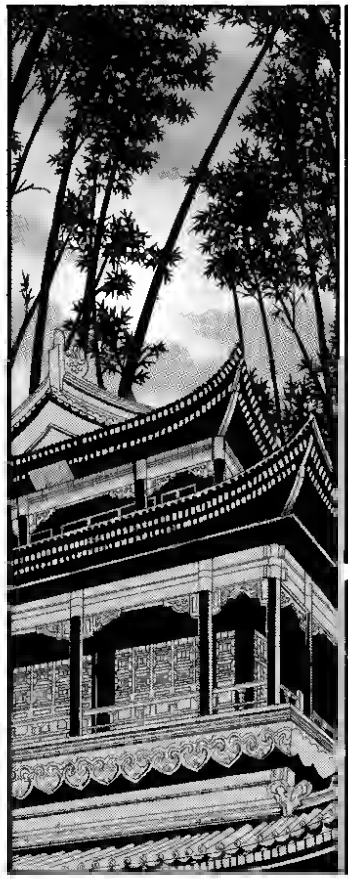
THE PERSON YOU'RE THINKING OF RIGHT NOW...
...IS NOT DESTINED TO BE YOUR MATE.
NO ONE CAN GO AGAINST *FATE.*

THE RED STRING TIES YOU TO *ONLY ONE PERSON.*
EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY WANT SOMEONE ELSE, YOU CANNOT CHANGE THAT.
DIDN'T YOU ASK ME TO COME HERE BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO FIND OUT *WHO* THE PERSON IS THAT YOU'RE TIED TO?
IF YOU KNOW IT'S NOT THE PERSON I WANT...NO.

I WILL SHOW YOU...
...THAT I CAN GO AGAINST YOUR SO-CALLED FATE.

OH...HOW STUBBORN...
SHOOO
WSHAAA


HA HA/
WHAT A
BOLD LITTLE
BOY...
GOING
AGAINST
FATE?
HA HA HA/



HE'S THE
SPITTING IMAGE
OF HIS MOTHER...
AND SO
STUBBORN,
TOO. AM I
RIGHT?

YES...

WATER IS
PURE AND CLEAN
TO START WITH,
BUT...
...WHEN IT IS
MIXED WITH EVEN
THE *SMALLEST*
IMPURITY, IT
GETS MUDDIED
INSTANTLY.

SO MANY
HARSH
THINGS
HAPPENED TO
THAT BOY...
PLEASE
STAND BY
HIM...AND
BE STRONG
FOR HIM.

FOR AN OLD
MAN LIKE ME,
ALL I CAN DO IS
WATCH HIM AND
TRAIL BEHIND.

HE CAN GET WHATEVER HE WANTS.
EXCEPT FOR THE ONE THING THAT HE WANTS MOST.
EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING THEY WANT AND LONG FOR.
AND WHEN THAT *LONGING* COMES, HUMANS CAN PRAY TO THEIR GODS, BUT...
...TO WHOM SHOULD THE GODS PRAY?

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? SOAH DISAPPEARED...?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THIS MORNING. I THOUGHT SHE WAS IN HER ROOM, BUT SHE ISN'T. SHE'S GONE. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP YOUR EYES ON HER, YOHEE! SHE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SUGUK. WHAT IF SHE GETS LOST?!
I THOUGHT SHE WAS WITH SOMEONE
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?
WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME? YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF SOAH. WHY ARE YOU MAD AT ME?!
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER AS MUCH AS YOU ARE!

WHATEVER! I HATE YOU! YOU'RE MEAN!
OH! MY, MY, MY...
HABAEK, MAKING A WOMAN CRY IS A *HORRIBLE* THING TO DO.
I HEARD THAT SOAH DISAPPEARED.
IT'S LATE AT NIGHT ALREADY. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER?
I HOPE SHE'S OKAY.
BY THE WAY, I HAVEN'T SEEN *HUYE* ALL DAY, EITHER!

I HOPE HE HASN'T TAKEN HIS MASTER'S WOMAN AS HIS LOVER AND RUN OFF WITH HER.
!!
WHSH
IF YOU SAY ONE MORE WORD, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU...EVEN THOUGH IT'S YOU.

!!
SPLOOSH
AND THE WOMAN-- YOU SAID THAT SHE WAS MUTE, BUT SHE CAN TALK!
ISN'T IT *STRANGE* THAT YOU DIDN'T FIGURE THAT OUT? AREN'T YOU THE BEST DOCTOR IN THE UNIVERSE OF GODS?
...
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? EASY, MAN.
IF THE WOMAN FROM THIS MORNING CAN TALK, THAT'S REALLY SURPRISING!
HONESTLY--I DIDN'T KNOW. HA HA! OH, MY... HOW COULD I HAVE MADE SUCH A MISTAKE?
CALM DOWN. I SAID THAT BECAUSE I KNOW SHE'LL BE *SAFER* IF SHE'S WITH GENERAL HUTE.
TURN
I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU'RE THINKING, BUT I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK THIS ONCE.

PHEW... THAT SCARED ME.
I SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.
YOU LOSE YOUR MIND REGARDING ANY MATTER DEALING WITH *HER*...
...ONE DAY, SHE'LL BE YOUR WEAKNESS, HABAEK.

I TOOK TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME. SORRY.
NO, ACTUALLY, WE HAVEN'T EVEN REACHED IT YET.
IT'S OKAY. I ENJOYED THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, THANKS TO YOU. IS THIS THAT FAVORITE SPOT THAT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME?

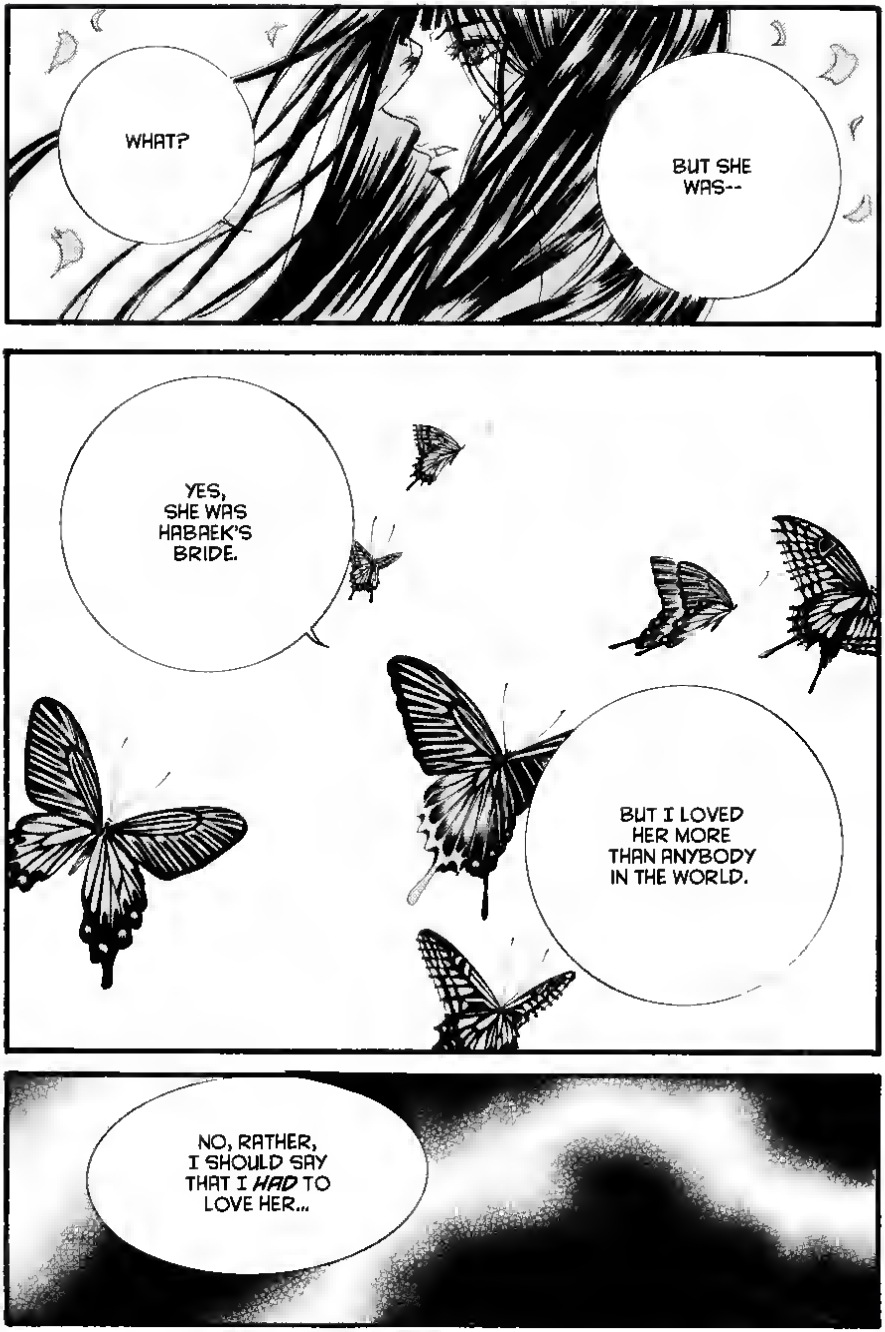
LOOK.
THAT'S
MY
HOMETOWN.

WATCH YOUR STEP.
쿠아아아
PWOOO
THANK YOU.
CLOP CLOP

WOW!
THIS PLACE IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
SPISH PLISH

I REALLY WANTED TO SHOW YOU THIS PLACE... MY FAVORITE PLACE.
BUT I THINK WE SHOULD GET GOING NOW. IT'S TOO LATE.
HABAEK-NIM MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
HMFF! LET HIM WORRY.
I DON'T THINK HE CARES HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THAT I'M GONE
HE'S FOND OF THE NEW BRIDE NOW, AND HE'S MOST LIKELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME.

I KNOW THAT BOTH HABAEK AND MUI CAN NEVER GET NAKBIN OUT OF THEIR MINDS.
SHE DIED, BUT SHE STILL HAS THEIR HEARTS. I EVEN FEEL A BIT JEALOUS!
AH...BUT PLEASE DON'T SAY THIS TO ANYBODY ELSE. IT'S EMBARRASSING.
THEN I'LL TELL YOU MY SECRET, TOO.
WOW... WHAT IS IT?
I LOVED HER, TOO.


WHAT?
BUT SHE WAS--
YES, SHE WAS HABAEK'S BRIDE.
BUT I LOVED HER MORE THAN ANYBODY IN THE WORLD.
NO, RATHER, I SHOULD SAY THAT I *HAD* TO LOVE HER...

...BECAUSE SHE WAS MY ONLY SISTER.
?!
CAN YOU REALLY FIND SOAH?

YES.
SPLISH
IF SOAH IS SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO WATER, I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HER...WHEREVER SHE IS.
REALLY? HEY--I SEE HER THERE ON THE SURFACE!
HUH? SO SHE *IS* WITH HUYE, THEN? PHEW! I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HUYE? YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
GRASP
HUYE?

!!

!

HUH? HUYE AND SOAH--
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HABAEK...?

휘익
EEYAAH!
SPLOOOSH
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? ARE YOU GOING TO GET SOAH?
HABAEK!
VIZZT

HABAEK!!
THIS ISN'T GOOD.

TOKK
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
!!
MAYBE... TO THAT OTHER GIRL?
YEO-WA...
I ASKED YOU TO CALL ME THAT BEFORE, BUT IT HURTS WHEN I ACTUALLY HEAR YOU SAY IT.
WHEN WILL YOU CALL ME *NAKBIN*?

I HAVE NO TIME TO ARGUE WITH YOU. GO AWAY.
DON'T GO, HABAEK.
FWSH

I'M BEGGING YOU.
HABAEK!
HABAEK ...?
UH... DID YOU SEE HABAEK BY ANY CHANCE?
OH! HA HA HA! I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND! I MEANT *MUI*! MUI--NOT HABAEK.

HE'S GONE...
HE LEFT ME BEHIND...
GONE? WHERE?
I BEGGED HIM NOT TO GO...
HUH?
THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE.
HE'LL PAY FOR THIS.

?
HUYE?
ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT'S WRONG?

SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHAT?
WSH
!!
비틀
SWOON
WHMMP
풀썩

WHO IS HE TALKING TO?
HUYE...?
STRANGE... I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY.
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE. STOP HIDING AND SHOW YOURSELF, PLEASE.
FWOOOSH

OH, MY! DID I INTERRUPT? I'M SO SORRY.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND SAY WHAT YOU NEED TO SAY...?
HIS MAJESTY, THE EMPEROR.

DON'T MAKE THE PROBLEMS IN YOUR HEART SO EVIDENT ON YOUR *FACE*, HUYE.
I JUST CAME TO GET WHAT WAS PROMISED.

HUYE...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?
YOU LOOK GREAT. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'M SO SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO NAKBIN.

BY THE WAY, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO HAVE...
WILL YOU PLEASE BRING IT TO ME?
WHY DID YOU DISOBEY MY ORDER THAT ONE TIME?

I MADE MYSELF CLEAR... I WANT THAT GIRL.
IT'S BECAUSE... SHE WENT BACK TO THE HUMAN WORLD...
RIGHT. SHE DID. HABAEK, THE SMARTASS, NOTICED MY INTEREST IN HER AND HID HER FROM ME.
BUT YOU'VE HAD MANY CHANCES SINCE SHE CAME BACK.
WELL, WHATEVER. IT DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE I CAN TAKE HER *NOW*.
TMp
저벅

저벅 TMP
저벅 TMP
저벅 TMP
스윽
REACH
NO.

멈춰
FREEEZE
YOU CAN'T TAKE HER.
...
I WON'T LET HER GO WITH YOU.

YOU'VE ALREADY BETRAYED HABAEK.
WHAT IF HE FINDS OUT ABOUT THAT? HEH HEH!
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT ABOUT OUR CONTRACT.

PLEASE... GIVE ME ANOTHER ORDER.
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO DO, EXCEPT FOR THAT.
HA! DO YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE AN OPTION?

SHWIK
!!
WSHAAAA
SKRITCH

I CAN *FINALLY* SEE THIS CUTIE UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL! LET'S SEE HERE...
FWSH
KRAK
AH?!
WHAPP

SPLOOOSH
STOP IT.

SHHK
MUI. YOU CAME FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HER?
DON'T SAY THAT LIKE I WAS GOING TO DO SOMETHING *BAD.*
EVERYONE'S BEEN HIDING HER FROM ME AND TREATING HER LIKE SOMETHING PRECIOUS. I WAS JUST CURIOUS.
THEN ISN'T THIS ENOUGH? YOU'VE SEEN HER. WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE NOW?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU'VE BEEN HERE TOO LONG?

HA HA HA! NO WAY. I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE...
...AND I WANT TO GET CLOSER TO HER.
WHAT I REMEMBER IS THAT YOU SAID...
...SHE MEANT NOTHING TO YOU.
OH, AND YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THIS...
...BUT THE SUN WILL RISE IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, MUI.
THE NIGHT IS NOT THAT LONG.

...
HUYE.
YES, SIR...?
BRING SOAH BACK.
I WILL FOLLOW SOON.

BUT--
DON'T WORRY. TRUST ME.
GO--NOW!
YES, SIR!
WHY DOESN'T HUYE QUESTION MUI'S DECISION?
WHO IS THAT STRANGE PERSON?
KRIKK
HUYE!
멈칫
FREEZE

YOUR HOMETOWN IS STILL BEAUTIFUL.
YES...
휘야
FWOO

푸득
FWUPP
FWUPP
HWOOSH
스
GLANCE

ARE YOU SENDING HER AWAY ALREADY?
KA'A!
THE FUN WAS JUST GETTING STARTED. ANYWAY, YOU TRUST THAT HUYE WAY TOO MUCH, DON'T YOU?
MU!?
KAAA!

촤아아
SWSHAAA

YOUR HOMETOWN IS STILL BEAUTIFUL.
HWOOSH

AH...
SOAH...
WAKE UP, SOAH!
WHO'S THIS?
HNN...
HUYE? WHERE ARE WE?
ARE YOU AWAKE NOW? BE CAREFUL. WE'RE STILL FLYING BACK.
WHAT HAPPENED? DID I FALL ASLEEP?

MUI-NIM CAME TO GET YOU WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP.
DID HE?
WAS HE MAD? WHAT DID HE SAY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. HE WASN'T MAD AT ALL.

SOAH!!
MUI?!

COME HERE.
SOAH.

MUI...
GRAB
?!
DO YOU STILL WANT TO GO TO HIM?
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'S GOING TO HURT YOU AND MAKE YOU SAD.
I'M SORRY, HUYE...
...I...
THAT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SORRY.
DON'T HESITATE TO COME TO ME WHENEVER YOU NEED HELP.
MY PROMISE WON'T CHANGE.
휘익
TAK
KTAK
THANK YOU, HUYE...

ON THE DAY I GOT MARRIED TO HABAEK, MY MOM CRIED...
...BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT THAT I WAS MARRYING SOME KIND OF MONSTER-- BUT HABAEK WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I IMAGINED.
HE WAS PURE AND KINDER THAN ANY HUMAN I'D EVER MET BEFORE.
I'VE NEVER REGRETTED BECOMING HABAEK'S BRIDE.

와락
FWMMP
BUT, NOW, I WISH THAT I COULD BE THIS ONE'S BRIDE.

Bride of the Water God

LIAISONS:

First Marriage

ONE BOOK DESCRIBES HABAEK WITH A FISH'S FACE, AND ANOTHER SAYS THAT HE HAS A HUMAN FACE BUT A FISH'S BODY.
YET ANOTHER DESCRIBES HIM AS A TALL HUMAN WITH A WHITE FACE AND A FISH'S BODY.
YOU HAVE TO ALWAYS BE CAREFUL WHEN PLAYING NEAR THE WATER.
WHY IS THAT, MOM?
HABAEK-NIM IS A GOOD GOD WHEN GOVERNING WATER, BUT HE IS CAPRICIOUS, SO YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'LL MAKE HIM MAD.
AND ONCE HE GETS MAD, HE IS *VERY SCARY.*
SO DON'T GO TOO FAR. STAY CLOSE.
OKAY!

WOW.
HOW PRETTY!
MOM WOULD LOVE IT IF I GAVE THIS TO HER.
COME ON...
JUST A BIT MORE...

AH!
!!
SPLOOSH

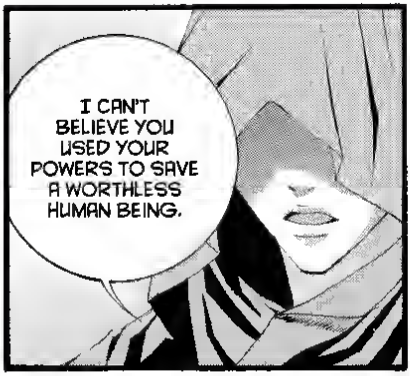
GLUG!
GLUG!
BLUG!
!!
EEEE
WSHAAA

NO!
HELP ME...
...MOM...
OK
SLOOSH
SNNCH

WHO IS THIS?
MOM?
NO.
IT'S NOT MOM...
SPSHWAAA

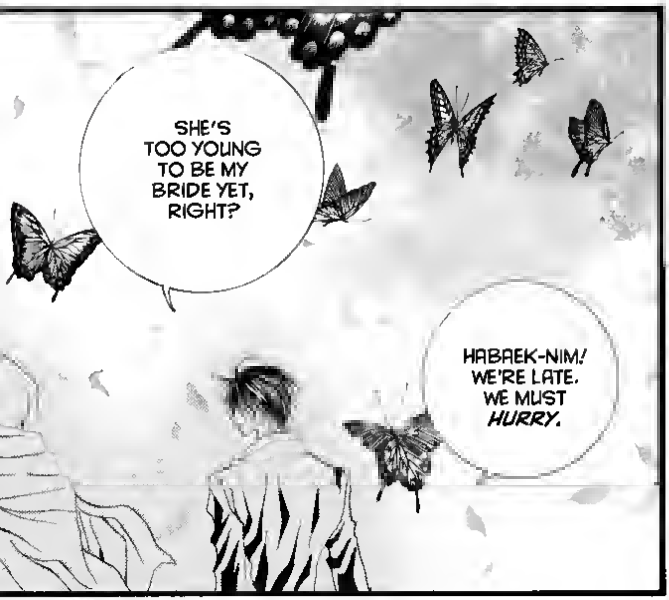
SORAH!
흔들 SHAKE
SORAH! WAKE UP!
ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU AWAKE?
꼴록 HOFF!
꼴록 HOFF!
MOM?
WHAT DID YOU DO?! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO NEAR THE WATER?!
THANK GOD! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO SWIM. I'M SURE YOU ARE BLESSED.
...
스윽 UWIK

HABAEK-NIM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
FWSH
WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE!


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU USED YOUR POWERS TO SAVE A WORTHLESS HUMAN BEING.

IS SHE *WORTHY* OF YOU, O WATER GOD?
DID YOU HAVE TO SAVE HER LIFE?

WELL...IT SOUNDS STRANGE, BUT I *HEARD* THIS KID'S VOICE. WHY WAS THAT?

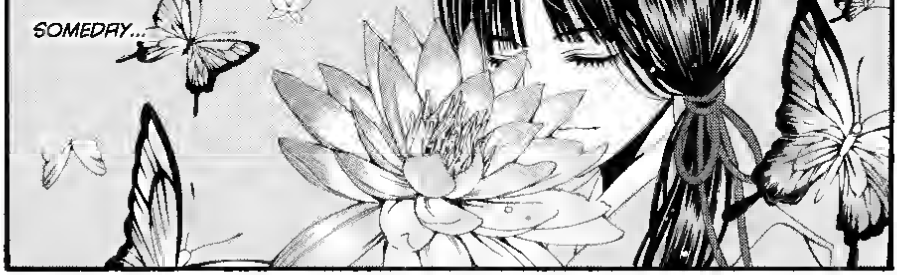

SHE'S TOO YOUNG TO BE MY BRIDE YET, RIGHT?
HABAEK-NIM! WE'RE LATE. WE MUST *HURRY*.

GRAB

LET'S MEET AGAIN... AFTER YOU'VE GROWN UP A LITTLE MORE.
HABAEK-NIM MUST HAVE SAVED YOU.

HABAEK?
HABAEK-NIM MUST HAVE TAKEN CARE OF YOU. THE WATER LILY IS HABAEK'S FLOWER.
A LONG TIME AGO, HABAEK-NIM FELT SORRY FOR PEOPLE WHO DROWNED.
HE REVIVED THOSE PEOPLE AS WATER LILIES, WITH HUGE LEAVES UNDER THEM SO THEY COULDN'T DROWN.
YOU HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL FOR HABAEK-NIM'S MERCY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, SOAH.

THANK YOU
SO MUCH,
HABAEK-NIM.

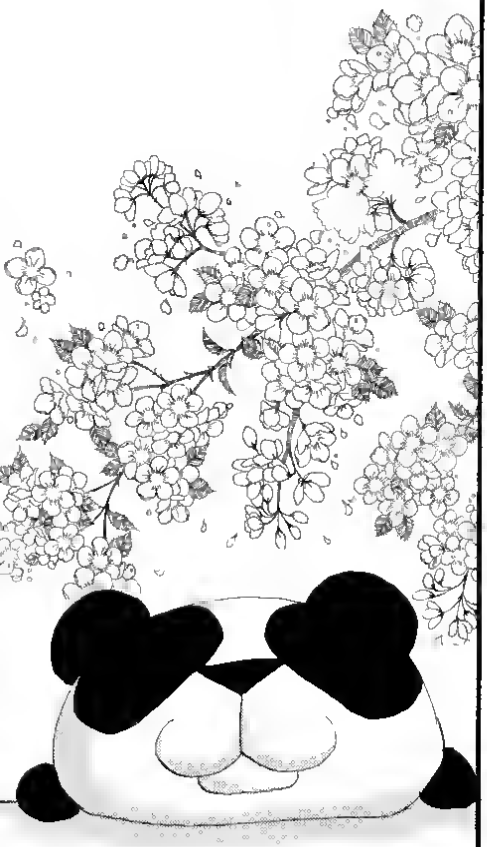

SOMEDAY...

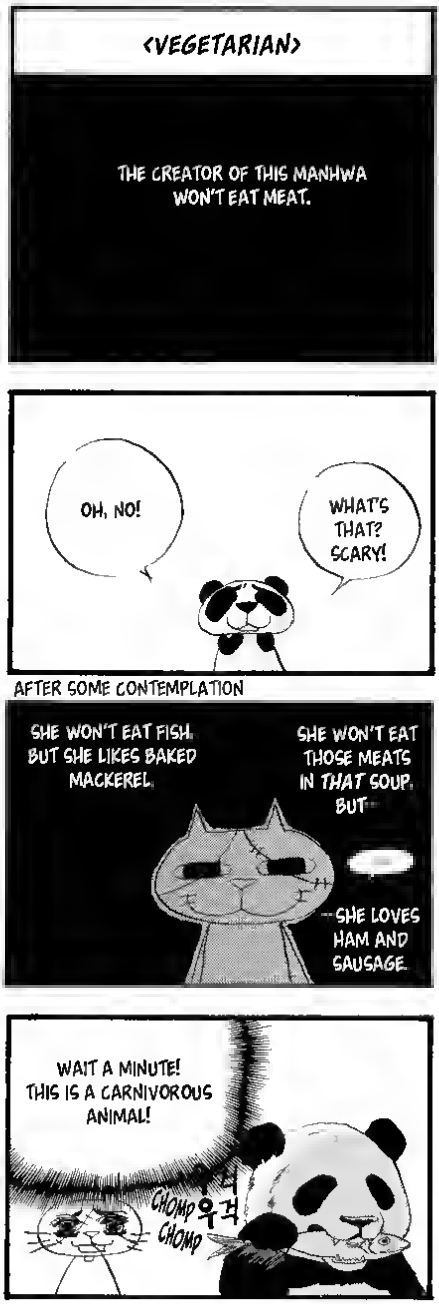
...WILL I BE ABLE TO MEET HIM AGAIN?

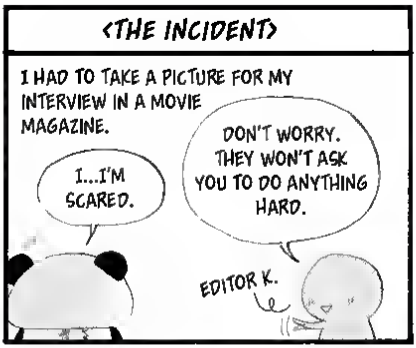
EPILOGUE . . .

☆MI-GAENG'S DIARY☆

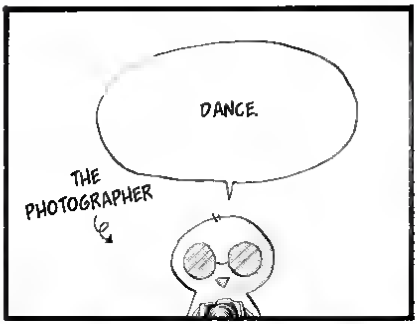
("MI-GAENG" IS MI-KYUNG YUN'S NICKNAME)



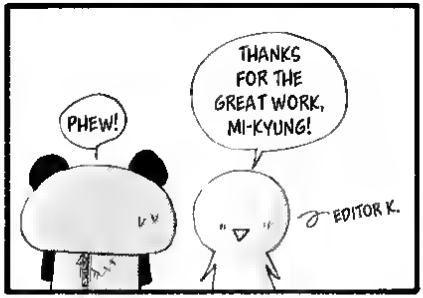

<VEGETARIAN>
THE CREATOR OF THIS MANHWA WON'T EAT MEAT.
OH, NO!
WHAT'S THAT? SCARY!
AFTER SOME CONTEMPLATION
SHE WON'T EAT FISH, BUT SHE LIKES BAKED MACKEREL.
SHE WON'T EAT THOSE MEATS IN THAT SOUP, BUT--
--SHE LOVES HAM AND SAUSAGE.
WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS A CARNIVOROUS ANIMAL!
CHOMP 우걱 CHOMP

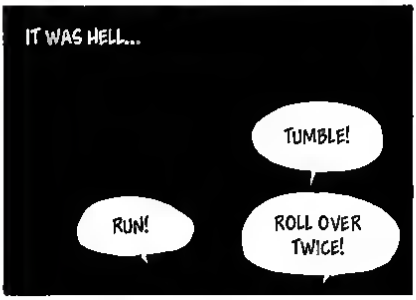

<THE INCIDENT>
I HAD TO TAKE A PICTURE FOR MY INTERVIEW IN A MOVIE MAGAZINE.
I...I'M SCARED.
DON'T WORRY. THEY WON'T ASK YOU TO DO ANYTHING HARD.
EDITOR K.

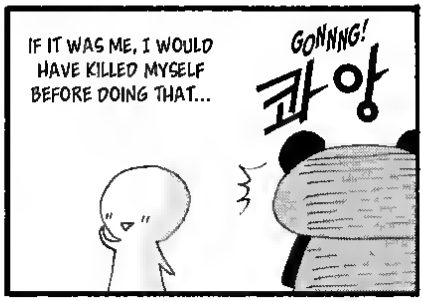
<FRUITS OF ONE'S LABOR>
I CAN'T...I CAN'T DO THIS. BUT...I CAN'T SAY THAT I CAN'T DO WHAT EVERYONE CAN DO!!

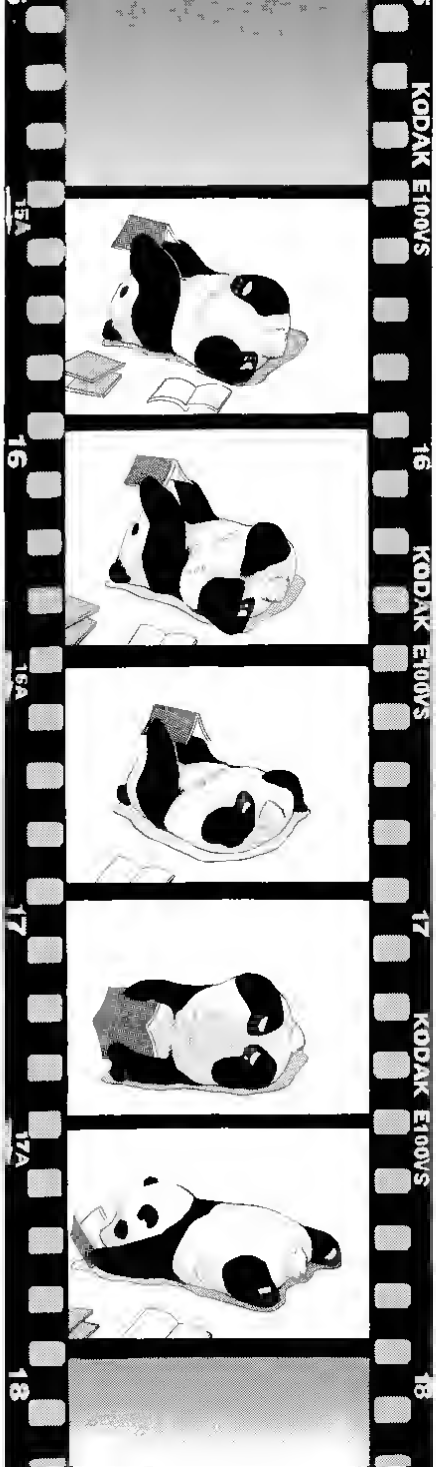

DANCE.
THE PHOTOGRAPHER

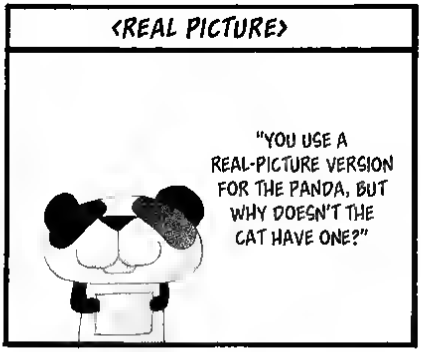
FEH! WHATEVER.


PHEW!
THANKS FOR THE GREAT WORK, MI-KYUNG!
EDITOR K.

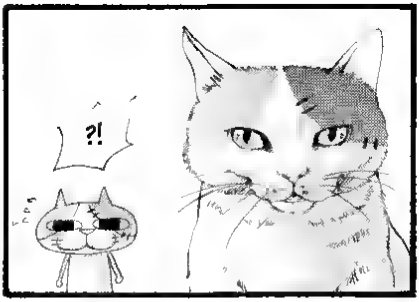

IT WAS HELL...
TUMBLE!
RUN!
ROLL OVER TWICE!

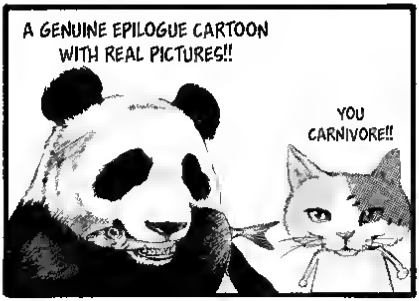

IF IT WAS ME, I WOULD HAVE KILLED MYSELF BEFORE DOING THAT...
GONNNG!
과앙


KODAK E100VS
15A
16
KODAK E100VS
16A
17
KODAK E100VS
17A
18


<REAL PICTURE>
"YOU USE A REAL-PICTURE VERSION FOR THE PANDA, BUT WHY DOESN'T THE CAT HAVE ONE?"

SO WE MADE ONE.


?!


A GENUINE EPILOGUE CARTOON WITH REAL PICTURES!!
YOU CARNIVORE!!
KEEP IT REAL!

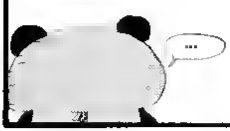
<EXPLANATION OF POEMS>

SOME READERS ARE COMPLAINING THAT THE POEMS WE USE ARE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, SO I'M ADDING SOME EXPLANATIONS TO HELP.

AMONG THE POEMS THAT HAVE BEEN USED SO FAR, ONLY ONE OF THEM WAS *NOT* ABOUT LOVE.

THE POEM WAS BAEK GEO-I'S "SAN-SEOK-RYU" IN VOLUME 3
MANG-JE THOUGHT THAT BYEOL-RYUNG WAS MORE VIRTUOUS, PROMOTED HIM, AND HAD TO RETIRE TO HERMITAGE. HE COULDN'T GET HIS TITLE BACK, DIED BEARING A GRUDGE, AND GOT REINCARNATED AS A CUCKOO. PEOPLE REGARDED THE BLOOD THAT THE CUCKOO THREW UP AS AZALEAS. "SAN-SEOK-RYU" MEANS "AZALEA " "CHEEKS STAINED WITH ROUGE SOAK UP FALLEN TEARS," "THE VERMILION HOOD WITH SCISSORS," "THE NEWLYWED GIRL, DRUNK WITH THE ENERGY OF THE BLOSSOMING SPRING"...ALL OF THESE WERE WORDS OF PRAISE TO DESCRIBE THE BEAUTY OF THE AZALEA

"TODAY, I STOOD IN FRONT OF THE SAME FLOWERS, BUT NOW I ONLY MISS YOU. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK OF YOU, I KNOW I CAN NEVER SEE YOU. AND I FEEL SAD. THE SUN SETS, THE WIND BLOWS, AND THE RED PETALS ARE SCATTERED"



THIS PART WAS NOT FOR HIS LOVER-- BUT FOR HIS BEST FRIEND, WON-JIN.

IT STILL SOUNDS LIKE A LOVE POEM TO ME...

THE POEM WE PUT IN VOLUME 5, "BAE SO MAN CHEO SANG," IS A POEM THAT KIM JEONG-HEE CREATED. HE WAS A CIVIL MINISTER IN THE LATE CHO-SUN DYNASTY AND FAMOUS FOR HIS UNIQUE, ARTISTIC CALLIGRAPHY STYLE. HE HEARD OF HIS WIFE'S DEATH A MONTH AFTER IT HAPPENED, BECAUSE HE WAS IN EXILE ON JE-JU ISLAND AT THE TIME. IN THIS POEM, HE DESCRIBES THE MISERABLE FEELING THAT HE CANNOT EVEN GO CRY IN FRONT OF THE BODY OF HIS OWN WIFE, WHOM HE SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE WITH. HE'S SAYING THAT HE'S GOING TO ASK WOL-HA, THE ELDER, TO MAKE HIM REBORN AS HIS WIFE--AND VICE VERSA-- SO THEY COULD BECOME A MARRIED COUPLE IN THEIR NEXT LIVES.
ALSO, HE'S NOT SAYING THAT HE WANTS TO CONTINUE THEIR LOVE, WHICH ENDED IN HIS LIFETIME...INSTEAD, HE WANTS TO DIE BEFORE HIS WIFE, SO THAT SHE WILL UNDERSTAND HOW PAINFULLY SAD IT FEELS TO BE LEFT ALONE.

EPILOGUE / END

Whenever I write an author's note, I try to think of something new to say, but in the end, I wind up leaving the same thing every time. This is my fifth volume. I'm always thinking that I could have never made it here by myself. I'd like to say thank you very much to everyone I happened to stress out along the way!

I might say this same thing again when the sixth volume comes out.

—Mi-Kyung Yun

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Ji-gu Bang-moon-gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

publisher
Mike Richardson

editor
Philip R. Simon

assistant editor
Patrick Thorpe

digital production
Ryan Hill

collection designers
David Nestelle & Tina Alessi

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윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

5

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

As jealous admirers and a bitter, powerful mother plot behind his back, Habaek's decision to return Soah to his magical kingdom has all the elemental gods and goddesses in an uproar. Habaek, the moody water god who rescued Soah's human village from famine and drought, is also coping with a curse that turns him into a child during the day and reverts him to his true adult form at night. Pretending to be the aloof, handsome god Mui, the adult Habaek flirts with Soah almost every evening and finds it increasingly hard to keep his hands off her! It may be time for Habaek to come clean! Why has he kept this secret for so long, and who's really responsible for the death of his previous human bride?

Writer/artist Mi-Kyung Yun received the "Best New Artist" award in 2004 from the esteemed Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization, and *Bride of the Water God* with its romantic, haunting storyline and stunning illustrations—is a best-selling series in Korea. This volume reproduces four full-color pages and a handful of bonus cartoons, as found in the original Korean edition.

GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANHWA/FANTASY

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